the ice-bound Neva, this done to demonstrate the libellous nature of a film, on the subject, one of many libel actions, lawyers eagerly scrutinising published matter of all descriptions for what might be actionable; a Talking Mongoose achieving some small notoriety when an employee of the B.B.C. successfully claimed that his interest in one resident in the Isle of Man had been contemptuously referred to, and his reputation and professional prospects thereby damaged; a lieutenant confined in the Tower on a charge of espionage, also achieving notoriety, revived some years later after he had served a term of imprisonment, when it was believed that a voice broadcasting nightly from Germany, was his.

The business of life proceeded, as in some form or another it ever must; but now somewhat dispiritedly, without much zest, like players performing to a sparse house at the end of a long run, speaking carelessly the parts they know so well and had once strained to make impressive, neglectful of gestures once laboriously rehearsed, anxious only for the curtain which, falling, will release them for ever from roles become tedious with constant repetition.

Even good works lost their savour; even progress, though continuing, palled. Slums should be abolished. They were shameful, and disgraced a society which had too long tolerated their existence. Belatedly, slums were discovered and denounced. Let them be pulled down one and all, and better, happier dwellings erected. Slum-clearance was advocated, and sometimes undertaken, but ceased with the coming of war—itself a clearance

process, though not only of slums.

Social services gained momentum, but from their own weight rather than from any new impetus; went rolling onwards, gathering much moss in the shape of salaried personnel, bureaucratic departments which constantly grew, each new cell added soon beginning itself to multiply. The nation's teeth, the nation's eyes, the nation's intestines, all its organs, internal and external, were improving, as published reports and ministerial statements testified. Nor was lie nation's mind neglected, A Committee